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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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In re Patent No. 7,537,607	:	
Brent C. Gerberding	:	DECISION DISMISSING
Application No. 10/026,413	:	REQUEST FOR
Issue Date: May 26, 2009	:	RECONSIDERATION OF
Filed: December 21, 2001	:	PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Atty. Docket No. S63.2-10234-US01	:	

This is in response to the APPLICATION FOR PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.705, filed July 24, 2009. Patentee requests that the determination of patent term adjustment be corrected from one thousand three hundred fifteen (1,315) days to one thousand eight hundred twenty-three (1,823) days.

Preliminarily, patentees request that the Office defer or delay a decision on this request for reconsideration until a final decision has been rendered in Wyeth v. Dudas, 580 F.Supp.2d 138, 88 U.S.P.Q.2d 1538 (D.D.C. 2008), which is now on appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, under Federal Circuit Docket No. 2009-1120. However, the Office notes that there is no specific regulatory provision for requesting that a petition under 37 CFR 1.705(d) be held in abeyance.

The request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment is **DISMISSED** with respect to making any change in the patent term adjustment determination under 35 U.S.C. § 154(b) of 1,315 days.

BACKGROUND

This application was filed on December 21, 2001. On May 26, 2009, the application matured into U.S. Patent No. 7,537,607, with a revised patent term adjustment of 1,315 days. The Office determined that the 1,075 days of Office delay, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) and 37 CFR 1.702(b), overlaps with the 1,617 days of Office delay, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A) and 37

CFR 1.702(a)(1) and (a)(2), accorded during the pendency of the application. As such, 542 additional days of patent term adjustment were entered at issuance under the three-year pendency provision. Given the 302 days of applicant delay, the patent issued with a revised patent term adjustment of 1,315 (1,075 + 542 - 302) days.

On July 24, 2009, patentee timely submitted this request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment (with required fee), asserting that the correct number of days of Patent Term Adjustment is 1,823 days under the court's interpretation of the overlap provision as set forth in Wyeth v. Dudas, 580 F. Supp. 2d 138, 88 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1538 (D.D.C. 2008). Accordingly, patentees maintain that the total non-overlapping PTO delay under §154(b)(1)(A) & (B) is 2,125 days. Further, given the applicant delay of 302 days, patentee asserts entitlement to 1,823 (508 + 1,617 - 302) days of patent term adjustment.

OPINION

Patentee's interpretation of the period of overlap has been considered, but found inconsistent with the Office's interpretation of the overlap provision, 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) limits the adjustment of patent term, as follows:

to the extent that the periods of delay attributable to grounds specified in paragraph (1) overlap, the period of any adjustment granted under this subsection shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

As explained in *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f)*¹ and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), 69 Fed. Reg. 34283 (June 21, 2004), the Office interprets 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) as permitting either patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iv), or patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), but not as

¹ Likewise, 37 CFR 1.703(f) provides that:

To the extent that periods of delay attributable to the grounds specified in §1.702 overlap, the period of adjustment granted under this section shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

permitting patent term adjustment under both 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iv) and 154(b)(1)(B). Accordingly, the Office implements the overlap provision as follows:

If an application is entitled to an adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application was pending (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the period of delay under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay overlap under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). Thus, any days of delay for Office issuance of the patent more than 3 years after the filing date of the application, which overlap with the days of patent term adjustment accorded prior to the issuance of the patent will not result in any additional patent term adjustment. See 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), and 37 CFR § 1.703(f). See *Changes to Implement Patent Term Adjustment Under Twenty Year Term; Final Rule*, 65 Fed. Reg. 56366 (Sept. 18, 2000). See also *Revision of Patent Term Extension and Patent Term Adjustment Provisions; Final Rule*, 69 Fed. Reg. 21704 (April 22, 2004), 1282 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 100 (May 18, 2004). See also *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, 69 Fed. Reg. 34283 (June 21, 2004).

Further, as stated in the *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, the Office has consistently taken the position that if an application is entitled to an adjustment under the three-year pendency provision of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application was pending before the Office (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the relevant period under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay "overlap" under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A).

This interpretation is consistent with the statute. Taken together the statute and rule provide that to the extent that periods of delay attributable to grounds specified in 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1) and in corresponding §1.702 overlap, the period of

adjustment granted shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

In this instance, the relevant period under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay "overlap" under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) is the period during which the application was pending before the Office beginning on the application filing date under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), December 21, 2001, and ending on the date the patent issued, May 26, 2009, (not including any other periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)).

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A) and 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) and (a)(2)², 1,075 days³ of patent term adjustment were accorded during the pendency of the application for Office delay prior to the issuance of patent. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) and 37 CFR 1.702(b)⁴, 1,617 days of patent term adjustment accrued

² 37 CFR § 1.702, provides grounds for adjustment of patent term due to examination delay under the Patent Term Guarantee Act of 1999 (original applications, other than designs, filed on or after May 29, 2000).

(a) Failure to take certain actions within specified time frames. Subject to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(b) and this subpart, the term of an original patent shall be adjusted if the issuance of the patent was delayed due to the failure of the Office to:

(1) Mail at least one of a notification under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151 not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or fulfilled the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371 in an international application;

(2) Response to a reply under 35 U.S.C. 132 or to an appeal taken under 35 U.S.C. 134 not later than four months after the date on which the reply was filed or the appeal was taken:

³ A restriction requirement was mailed on July 13, 2004, 14 months and 508 days after the application was filed on December 21, 2001. A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was mailed November 2, 2006, four months and 248 days after a response was filed October 27, 2005. A final Office action was mailed December 24, 2008, four months and 319 days after a response was filed on October 9, 2007.

⁴ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 37 CFR 1.702(b) provides, in pertinent part, that:

Failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application. Subject to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(b) and this subpart, the term of an original patent shall be adjusted if the issuance of the patent was delayed due to the failure of the Office to issue a patent within

for Office issuance of the patent more than 3 years after the filing date of the application.

All of the 1,617 days of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(b) overlap with the 1,075 days of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) and (a)(2). Entry of both the 1,617 days and the 1,075 days is neither permitted nor warranted. The Office accorded the greater period of 1,617 days for Office delay.

Accordingly, at issuance, the Office properly entered 542 additional days of patent term adjustment for the Office taking in excess of three years to issue the patent.

CONCLUSION

In view thereof, the Office affirms that the revised determination of patent term adjustment at the time of the issuance of the patent is 1,315 days.

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e). No additional fees are required.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to Kenya A. McLaughlin, Petitions Attorney, at (571) 272-3222.

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three years after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) in an international application.